

# ATTS NEWSLETTER

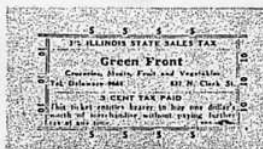
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 3

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1979

PHONE (503) 745-5069 (Sundays)



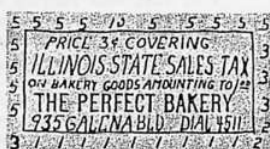
## New Finds



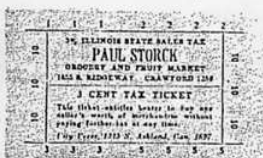
IL-125



IL-126



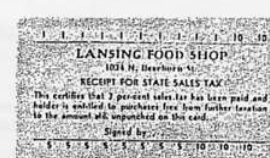
IL-127



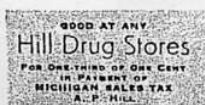
IL-128



IL-129



IL-18



MI-19



MI-20



MI-21



MI-22

The scrip shown on this page is not known to exist at this time. The photos were taken from a photographic plate in *The Sales Tax in the American States*, an 833 page work on the sales tax that was written by Robert M. Haig and Carl Shoup in 1934. The plate from which these tokens were identified appeared on page 34.

Another item of note from this work is that in Chicago, of 4722 retailers surveyed, 8 were found to issue coupons, 1 used tokens, 189 employed punch cards, and 5 used other "fractional-cent devices" to facilitate the collection of the Illinois sales tax. In Michigan, only a dozen retailers were found to have issued any type of tokens. All the above figures exclude restaurants.

Photos from the original plate taken by David Sperry, Corvallis, OR.

## New Finds...

The following is a listing of the ten tokens pictured on page one. None are known to exist, although it is possible that one or more of each type do. Since the photo plate from which the pictures were obtained was in black and white, no colors of the cardboard and ink are known, although it is most likely that the majority are black ink on cream or white cardboard.

Although we know in which states the pieces were issued in, we do not know which cities were the original home of the scrip (except for MI-19, from Lansing, MI). This is vital information. If you have an idea about where these tokens are from, please write me at P.O. Box 614, Corvallis, OR, 97330.

Finally, if you happen to have any unreported items of salestaxia, please write me so that we can get your "finds" into the next issue of the newsletter.

## ILLINOIS

### IL-125      Green Front Groceries

Obv. 5 5 5 5 / 10 10 10 (vertical) / 3% ILLINOIS STATE SALES TAX / Green Front / Groceries, Meats, Fruit and Vegetables / Tel. Delaware 9664 637 N. Clark St. / 3 CENT TAX PAID / This ticket entitles bearer to buy one dollar's / worth of merchandise without paying further / tax at any time. 486 (union bug) / 10 10 10 (vertical) / 5 5 5 5

approximately 50 x 70 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

### IL-126      I. D. A. Drug Stores

Obv. 5 5 5 5 1 1 1 1 / 5 5 5 5 5 (vertical) / 3% ILLINOIS SALES TAX PAID / DRUG (I.D.A. - emblem) STORES / 3 CENT TAX PAID TICKET / This ticket entitles bearer to buy one dollar's / worth of merchandise without paying further / tax at the I.D.A. Drug Store indicated on back. / Save this card -- Money refunded if law is / held invalid / 10 10 10 10 (vertical) / 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 (upside down)

Rev. (unknown)

approximately 50 x 70 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

### IL-127      The Perfect Bakery

Obv. 5 5 5 5 10 5 5 5 5 / 5 5 5 5 (vertical) / PRICE 3¢ COVERING / ILLINOIS STATE SALES TAX / ON BAKERY GOODS AMOUNTING TO 1<sup>00</sup> / THE PERFECT BAKERY / 935 GALENA BLD. DIAL 4511 / 3 3 3 2 (vertical) / 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2

approximately 50 x 70 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

### IL-128      Paul Storck Grocery and Fruit Market

Obv. 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 / 10 10 10 (vertical) / 3% ILLINOIS STATE SALES TAX / PAUL STORCK / GROCERY AND FRUIT MARKET / 1655 S. RIDGEWAY CRAWFORD 1259 / 3 CENT TAX TICKET / This ticket entitles bearer to buy one / dollar's worth of merchandise without / paying further tax at any time. / City Press, 1315 S. Ashland, Can. 1697 / 10 10 10 (vertical) / 3 3 3 5 5 5 5

approximately 50 x 70 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

### IL-129      Waldman's Grocery

Obv. 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 / 10 10 10 10 (vertical) / 3% Illinois State Sales Tax / WALDMAN'S GROCERY / 1257 S. Lawndale Ave. / Phone Crawford 4865 / 3 Cent Tax Paid Ticket / 3 3 3 3 (vertical) / 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

approximately 50 x 70 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

# M I C H I G A N

## MI-18 Hill Drug Stores

Obv. GOOD AT ANY / Hill Drug Stores / FOR ONE-THIRD OF ONE CENT / IN  
PAYMENT OF / MICHIGAN SALES TAX / A.P. HILL

approximately 20 x 35 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

## MI-19 Lansing Food Shop

Obv. 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 10 / LANSING FOOD SHOP / 1034 N. Dearborn  
St. / RECEIPT FOR STATE SALES TAX / This certifies that 3 per-cent  
sales tax has been paid and / holder is entitled to purchase free  
from further taxation / to the amount still unpunched on this card./  
Signed by ..... / 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 10 10 10

approximately 50 x 70 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

## MI-20 Linn Camera Shop

Obv. GOOD AT / Linn Camera Shop / FOR ONE-HALF OF ONE CENT / IN PAYMENT  
OF / MICHIGAN SALES TAX

approximately 20 x 35 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

## MI-21 Morris & Travis Drug Store

Obv. GOOD AT ANY / MORRIS & TRAVIS / DRUG STORE / FOR ONE-THIRD OF ONE  
CENT / IN PAYMENT OF / MICHIGAN SALES TAX / c STRATHMORE PRESS

approximately 20 x 35 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

## MI-22 Perry's Drug

Obv. GOOD AT / Perry's Drug / FOR ONE-THIRD OF ONE CENT / IN PAYMENT OF /  
MICHIGAN SALES TAX / c STRATHMORE PRESS

approximately 20 x 35 mm. UNKNOWN COLOR OF PRINTING ON CARDBOARD.

## \*\*\*\*\* Attention:

Elections are overdue, so let's get going on a new slate of officers. To get the ball rolling, we need a list of people who are interested in serving ATTS. If you would like to run for office, please send your name and a short bit about yourself and your qualifications. You can even send a few campaign promises, if you want!!! Write me at P.O. Box 614, Corvallis, OR, 97330. The jobs available are:

**PRESIDENT:** Receives motions from other officers; distributes motions to officers for their vote; notifies officers and Editor with results of Board votes; serves as formal head of ATTS; casts deciding vote in motions resulting in a tie; automatically becomes ex-officio Board member for two years following term of office.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** A voting member of ATTS Board; carries out duties of President in the event of death/resignation.

**SECRETARY:** Receives membership applications; makes notes of dues paid; distributes membership cards; handles Society correspondence; a voting member of ATTS Board.

**TREASURER:** Receives all Society funds; handles checking/savings accounts; makes reports (bi-monthly) concerning Society's financial status; disperses funds at the direction of the Board; a voting member of ATTS Board.

**DIRECTORS AT LARGE:** (3) Voting members of ATTS Board, who, like other officers, receive communiques and vote on them; make Board motions.

Term of office is for the remainder of 1979, and all of 1980. Please step forward; don't be shy! We need your help. ATTS is a 100% Volunteer organization.

# Tokens, Stamps, & Punch Cards

(An excerpt from THE RETAIL SALES TAX: With Particular Reference to Administrative Problems of its Collection, by William Paul Walker and Everett C. Weitzell. February, 1936.)

In those states using tokens of some nature to compensate the discrepancy caused by the application to the bracket system, the problem of equitable collection is partially solved. According to some commentators, collection has been perfected by the use of stamps and other similar devices, but such a statement is rather optimistic.

The following five methods are more or less commonly used to pass the sales tax to consumers:

1. Tokens and stamps collected as evidence of tax payment.
2. Punch cards, or aggregate purchase cards, representing tax-paid purchase privileges of a given amount.
3. Mental additions to selling price.
4. Hidden in the purchase price.
5. A reduction in quantity or quality of purchase at a given price.

In "passing on" a gross receipts tax, and during the early stages of most sales taxes, the tax is collected by the last three methods. With a retail tax (collectable from the consumer by law), supplementary devices for passing the tax, such as metal or paper tokens, tax-paid stamps, and punch cards, should be carefully considered.

Metal tokens are generally made of some aluminum or tin alloy that is fairly inexpensive, costing from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per thousand. Paper tokens are used only in Missouri at present, but were used in Washington prior to a ruling that they are unsanitary. The tokens of Missouri are the same size as a milk bottle cap and represent one mill and five mills. These caps also have been judged as unsanitary, but the Governor of Missouri has requested a wax covering containing a disinfectant that will insure against disease transmission.

Table 6. States Having Metal Sales Tax Tokens <sup>1</sup>.

State	Tax Rate	Denomination of Tokens	Size and Shape
Illinois	3 %	1½ mills	square - 5/8 inch
Washington	2 %	For 10¢ purchase or less	round - 7/8 inch <sup>2</sup> .
Colorado	2 %	1/5 cent	square - 15/16 inch <sup>2</sup> .
New Mexico	2 %	1 mill and 5 mills	round - 5/8 inch

1. In addition, Missouri uses paper tokens and Ohio uses tax-paid stamps.

2. Hole in center.

Stamps are being used in Ohio in ten representative denominations, ranging from one cent to three dollars. The stamps constitute a double receipt, one half being retained by the vendor and the other half, being torn or slightly mutilated, is given to the consumer when he pays the tax. The vendor is required to deliver the receipt and the vendee is required to accept it. In addition to stamps and price bracket schedules, drug stores, five and ten cent stores, etc., make use of punch cards. These cards are prescribed by the administration and if any store desires to use same it must obtain permission to duplicate the requirements established by the administration. Before these cards may be used, a pre-paid tax stamp, properly cancelled by partially tearing, must be affixed to the reverse side of the card in the exact space designated. Thus, when the several denominations are punched out along the edge, as purchases are made, the tax stamp is mutilated beyond future use.

The different punch cards are used in order that small purchases may be aggregated to eliminate tax duplication or excessive tax rates on small sales when representatives of money, less than a cent, are not available. They are used in connection with the respective bracket system in a state. The cards are issued in Ohio for \$1.00 purchases, and three cents tax; in Missouri for \$1.00 purchases, and 1 cent tax; while cards for fifty cents bearing one cent tax are used in West Virginia. The cards represent the amount of purchases that can be made against a tax already paid. Consumers carry the cards until total purchases, punched on the cards by the clerks, constitute the amount on which the tax has been paid. When fully punched, such cards are void and represent a receipt for taxes paid on the purchases punched thereon. There is the possibility that clerks may

not punch the cards properly for certain customers, thereby producing a corresponding error in the amount of tax collected. Another drawback is the fact that each store, or chain of stores, has individual tax-paid purchase cards. Thus, the consumer cannot use such cards to make purchases in all stores, which may necessitate the carrying of many different punch cards, and be otherwise obnoxious to the consumer.

5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
5	Date _____								
5	Store _____								
5	CONSUMER'S SALES TAX MEMORANDUM								
5	One cent tax has been collected and you are								
5	entitled to purchase merchandise not exceed-								
5	ing 50¢ without paying additional tax.								
5	Not good after leaving store.								
5	Not good in any other store.								
5	F. W. Woolworth Co.								

A Reproduction of an Aggregate Purchase Card  
Used by the F.W. Woolworth Co., in West Virginia **WV-30**

The aggregate purchases made during any single visit to a store generally constitute the basis for tax computation and collection. Stores having more than one sales counter, or department, may issue tax credit slips, providing the amount of tax paid permits additional purchases without additional tax payments. Such purchase slips may be used in lieu of "punch cards".

In some cases, the tax is added to the bill. It is common to have restaurant meal checks made up in a manner to include the tax on the various amounts of sales, or to designate the tax separate from the purchase.

Smaller stores generally do not go to the trouble of obtaining any equipment or facilities for passing on the tax. In such cases, mental additions are made to the price of each purchase.

In those states where the merchants are permitted to absorb the tax, or to include the tax as a cost of the product, they sometimes display or advertise prices in such a manner as to make the tax and price of the commodity inseparable, as far as the consumer is able to determine.

There seems to be certain important features resulting from the use of tokens or similar devices. One feature is the fact that the percentage of tax collected on various size sales is nearer the percentage of the tax levied... Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Michigan collect as high as 6.6 per cent, 10.0 per cent, and 5.0 per cent, respectively, from one, two, and three per cent taxes without the use of tokens; while Missouri, Colorado, and Illinois, with tax rates of one, two, and three per cent, respectively, collect approximately the stipulated per cent tax requirements of the laws on all size sales with the use of tokens.

One important difference between the use of stamps and tokens lies in the fact that stamps do not have the duration of tokens; and that the cost of printing stamps, which cannot be reused to the same extent as tokens, would be prohibitive in small denominations. Tokens of too small representative value may also be too costly.

Tax-paid coupon books have been advocated as a means of collecting sales taxes. This plan consists of coupon books containing tax-paid coupons of variable size purchases. Consumers would purchase the coupon books by payment of the tax, and the retailer would collect the coupons from the consumers.

(W.W. & E.W.)

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Editor's Commentary: Take close note of the punch card. It is unreported, as of this time, and may possibly be non-existent. The original drawing is reproduced, with straight lines darkened in, so that they can be seen. Also of interest is the references to the un-sanitation of the "paper" tokens. Does anyone know anything about this???

The booklet from which this was excerpted was located in the Oregon State University Library. It was typewritten, and mimeographed. Please check your local libraries, especially any University libraries: there may be other scarce booklets, packed with information. Take a look!!!



## Avon, IL Tokens Were Not S.T.T.s by Robert Leonard

Jerry Schimmel, in the ATTS Newsletter, Vol. IV, No. 2 (May-June, 1974), page two, listed tokens from Tompkins & Clayberg, General Merchants, Avon, IL in denominations of 1/8¢ and 1/4¢ as possible sales tax tokens. These same tokens are listed in Chits, Chiselers, and Funny Money by Michael Pfefferkorn and Jerry Schimmel, page 56, as private sales tax tokens, Catalog Nos. IL-97 and IL-98, respectively. Research has now shown that they were not sales tax tokens.

Stephen Tompkins arrived in Avon from New York state in 1838. After various business ventures there, he founded the banking firm of Stephen Tompkins and Son in 1884. In 1892, this company bought the O.J. Beam bank building. Seven years later, on the death of Stephen Tompkins, Albert H. Tompkins, Frank Tompkins (brother of Albert), and William Harry Clayberg (son-in-law of Albert) formed A.B. Tompkins and Co., a private banking institution. This firm was located in the O.J. Beam bank building, the first floor of which was divided into three rooms with wide openings leading from one to another. In the north section was the bank. In the middle section was a dry goods store, operated by Giles Clayberg (another son-in-law of Albert). In the south section was a grocery store operated by Frank Tompkins. Albert Tompkins sold his interest in the stores and became president of the bank. This arrangement continued until sometime before 1920.

Sometime between 1910 and 1920, tokens were issued with the inscription: TOMPKINS & CLAYBERG, GENERAL MERCHANTS, AVON, ILL. They were made in denominations of 1/8¢ aluminum and 1/4¢, 1/2¢, and 1¢ brass. They were premium tokens, given out when a customer's bill was settled, so they were similar to modern trading stamps. They may have been in use for only a short time, as one old-time resident (Mrs. Pearl Lincoln) wrote me, "As to the tokens--- I never seen any and doubt they ever had any." However, another long time resident (name not supplied to me, but cited by Barbara Davis Janes, whose family was closely associated with both the Tompkins and Clayberg families) remembered the tokens and their purpose, and even sent me a couple of them.

The tokens were all made by Meyer & Wenthe of Chicago, a firm which is still making tokens today. The 1/8¢ token is the smallest value token ever issued for circulation in the state of Illinois, and cost at least 12.8 times its face value, according to the old Meyer & Wenthe price schedules supplied to me by Duane H. Feisel.

## 3% Sales Tax Stands Without Leader's OK

(From THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, April 5, 1957, Front Page. Contributed by Tom McMann)

GOVERNOR AGAIN HITS EXEMPTIONS     Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau

HARRISBURG, April 4 - Gov. George M. Leader tonight permitted the 3 percent sales tax bill to become law without his signature, the measure thus going into effect automatically at midnight.

His action brought to an end a long period of wrangling over the Republican measure, which the Governor said gives "inexcusable preferences" to certain groups.

Important provisions in the new law are retention of the 3 percent levy, which was due to drop to 2 percent June 1, and elimination of the stamp plan for collection.





## TRADING POST

.....  
 ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS of the 1978 ATTS membership counterstamp are available (to paid members only) for just 50¢ each, postpaid. A real bargain for an Uncirculated counterstamp!!! Order a few today!!! (Please make personal checks payable to ATTS) EDITORIAL OFFICE, P.O. Box 614, Corvallis, OR 97330.  
 .....

DEAL OF THE CENTURY!!! I still need AL-11(#19) Alabama, dark blue, 1 Mill fiber. I'm willing to trade an Illinois cardboard provisional for one (!!!) or pay cash. Please write before shipping. KENT JOHNSON, Rice, KS 66965.  
 .....

NEW MEMBER wants to buy sales tax tokens. Write to: GARY G. ASCHER, 140 W. Pearl - #304, Owatonna, MN 55060.  
 .....

PROVISIONALS WANTED: Astoria, Beardstown, Bunker Hill, Casey, Depue, Effingham, Gillespie, Hoopston, Jackson Co., Ladd, Mattoon, Monmouth, Mount Olive, Pike Co., Rushville, Union Co., Virginia, and Witt. Top price paid, so write!!! TIM DAVENPORT, P.O. Box 614, Corvallis, OR 97330.  
 .....

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is interested in obtaining a nice representative set of salestaxia for it's museum. This donation is tax-deductible. Inquiries concerning donations may be set to: KENNETH HALLENBECK, P.O. Box 15, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.  
 .....

TRADING: Illinois trade tokens, 1/4¢ provisionals, dog tags, lapel pins. Send your trading list for mine. PHIL KLABEL, RR 1, Peru, IL 61354.  
 .....

WANT COMMEMORATIVE SAMBO WOODEN NICKELS... Also Sales Tax Tokens. Will buy or trade. Write. R. F. HERBERG, 413 Hillside Blvd., Daly City, CA 94014.  
 .....

WANTED: O.P.A. Ration Tokens, Car Wash Tokens, Parking Tokens, Transportation Tokens, and Sales Tax Tokens. Will buy or trade. JIM HEMPHILL, P.O. Box 1321, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.  
 .....

WANTED TO BUY: Alabama, Colorado, Kentucky, and Washington Sales Tax Tokens. New member needs 4 or 5 of each kind. Please describe and price. LEO COLE, Jr., 2100 Wolfe Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72901.  
 .....

WANTED TO BUY: "Sambo" woods and Prison Tokens. Have Tax Tokens and Ration Tokens to trade for material that I need. Write. GEORGE VAN TRUMP, Jr., P.O. Box 26523, Lakewood, CO 80226.  
 .....

WE HAVE AN EXONUMIA MAILER, CALLED "ODDS & ENDS". Featuring Sales Tax Tokens, "Good For" Tokens, Medals, and Transportation Tokens. R & S COINS, P.O. Box 552, Clackamas, OR 97015  
 .....

YOUR AD COULD HAVE APPEARED HERE!!! Free of charge to all members of ATTS... a 25-word ad in each and every issue!!! The only specification is that the ad be different every month! Buy, Sell, Trade!!! Don't miss out: send in your ad for the January-February, 1979 issue today!!! ATTS EDITORIAL OFFICE, P.O. Box 614, Corvallis, OR 97330.  
 .....

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### Did You Know

- ....that in 1932, the House of Representatives voted on a bill providing for a 2% national sales tax? The tax was a key part of a billion-dollar revenue raising bill. Although the measure was strongly supported by Secretary of the Treasury Mills, it was defeated after heavy debate, 153 aye vs. 223 nay.
- ....that Missouri's first sales tax tokens were printed on cardboard milk bottle caps? The use of the caps for tokens had National Manufacturing Co., a Kansas City, MO firm, so busy that it created a shortage of caps for dairymen throughout Kansas and Missouri.
- ....that Tenino wooden sales tax tokens were apparently made in strips of five. They were printed on Sitka Spruce. Also, one prominent member of the Tenino Wooden Money Society has informed me that blue ink was probably never used... some green tokens just appear blue due to the grain of the wood.
- 8 ....that only two states do not currently have a sales tax: New Hampshire and Oregon.